



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 14, 2003

S. 247

Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Amendments Act of 2003

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on June 17, 2003*

SUMMARY

S. 247 would reauthorize the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 for the next five years. This legislation also would extend the life of a federal interagency task force established to assess the problems of algal blooms and hypoxia. Algal blooms are unusual concentrations of algae that produce toxins that are implicated in fish kills and are considered a possible threat to public health. They also can lead to other damaging marine conditions such as hypoxia, which occurs when an algal bloom dies and decomposes, reducing oxygen in the waters to levels that are harmful to aquatic life.

This legislation would authorize the appropriation of \$26 million in 2004 and \$135 million over the 2004-2008 period for various efforts by an interagency task force to control aquatic problems related to algal blooms and hypoxia. Such efforts would include research, education, and management activities related to preventing, reducing, and controlling algal blooms, local and regional assessments of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia, and the development of a prediction and response plan to protect the environment and public health from harmful algal blooms.

CBO estimates that implementing S. 247 would cost \$118 million over the 2004-2008 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. Enacting S. 247 would not affect direct spending or revenues. The legislation contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 247 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment). CBO

assumes that S. 247 will be enacted by September 30, 2003, and that the amounts authorized by the bill will be appropriated near the start of each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar programs.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Spending Under Current Law						
Budget Authority ^a	16	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	16	6	2	1	0	0
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	0	26	27	27	28	28
Estimated Outlays	0	16	23	25	26	28
Spending Under S. 247						
Authorization Level ^a	16	26	27	27	28	28
Estimated Outlays	16	22	25	26	26	28

a. The 2003 level is the amount appropriated for that year for activities currently being performed under the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

The legislation contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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